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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.]

A REPLY

DEAR EDITOR: In reply to L. R.'s letter, in the December JOURNAL, I would like to say I think her suggestion an excellent one. Private duty seems to be the only branch of the nursing world that is not organized, and the private nurse is the one most in need of the support that such an organization would give.

The nurse holding a hospital position is kept in touch with all the new ideas, and is, therefore, continually advancing in her profession, while the private duty nurse on the other hand is continually falling behind if she does not have something to keep her in touch with the more progressive ideas.

Why could not the presidents of the various alumnae associations take the vote of all the private nurses in their associations on this question, and find out how many are in favor of starting an organization of this kind?

A PRIVATE NURSE.

[Our present difficulties are that we have too many, rather than too few organizations. The various alumnae associations and the Associated Alumnae are made up largely of private duty nurses, though they include also members of the teaching profession, and it would seem to us far wiser, if only from practical and economic motives, to discuss private duty problems at the sessions of these societies, already organized, than to create new bodies of nurses.—Ed.]

CARE OF MORE THAN ONE PATIENT

DEAR EDITOR: Will some of the nurses tell me through the JOURNAL what the charges should be when called into a home where there are two or more patients to care for?

I have been in homes where there have been more than one, and have received what is usual for one only.

E. N.

HOW TO KEEP FOOD WARM

DEAR EDITOR: I would like to tell E. J., who asks for suggestions in keeping food warm in a small, poorly-equipped hospital, of our improvised heater.

In Porto Rico our general kitchen was some distance from the patients' buildings, and with the trade winds constantly blowing the food was rapidly cooled until we devised the following heater:

A galvanized iron box, water tight, about 3 feet by 2 feet and 9 or 10 inches deep, with five holes, two on each end and one, a little larger, in the centre to contain a soup kettle. We bought rather shallow blue and white enamel covered dishes to fit and sink into the holes. There was a handle on each end of the heater and a faucet to let out the water. Just a few minutes before